

# Welcome to 7 White Learning Skills

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## Dear Parents

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Sandra Wallach and I will be your child's Learning Skills teacher for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I have been the Learning Skills teacher for the eighth grade for many years.

Last year the SPED Department at Oak decided to try looping. This means that your child's Learning Skills teacher will remain the same through the eighth grade. There are many advantages to using this model: First, you will be able to develop a working relationship that will last for two years; second, your child will have a consistent team of people who know them well; third, it eliminates the anxiety of who will be helping your child next year.

The Learning Skills program is designed to provide students with the skills they need to be successful. We encourage students to be independent and work towards them being advocates for themselves.

One of the ways that we encourage this independence is through the use of the internet. There are two sites that your child can access. One site contains daily homework assignments and the other site will contain the worksheets needed to complete most assignments, short and long term. This site also contains helpful tips for parents and students. On this site there will be posted graphic organizers and procedural guides to help your child with their homework. Please use these to your advantage.

Another way that we encourage independence is by encouraging your child to utilize the Team Teachers when they have a problem with their work.

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ LEARNING HOW TO LEARN CLASS  
( see next page )

## Student Centered Goals

Each student is asked to write two goals at the beginning of the class. A typical goal is to use a particular strategy to study for a test. Another goal may be to take better notes in class. These goals help the students to get ready for learning and to help them begin to think of what they need to be successful.

As time progresses, each student becomes more aware of what they need to do as well as what to ask their teacher for.

## Classroom Goals

The goals that we have for each student are the following:

- Comes to class prepared with questions and materials
- Makes good use of class time
- Advocates for self
- Accepts help from the teacher
- Acquires and uses a variety of study skills and learning strategies



*E-mail is the best!.*

## Communication

The most important thing to remember is communication. If you are in doubt e-mail right away. This is the best method because it is checked daily. If we have open communication small problems will not become huge problems.

[swallach@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:swallach@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)



Telephone is next!

To access our Webpage go to [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com), go to free services, click on class homepage, user name: 7\_white password : snow

### Student Comments

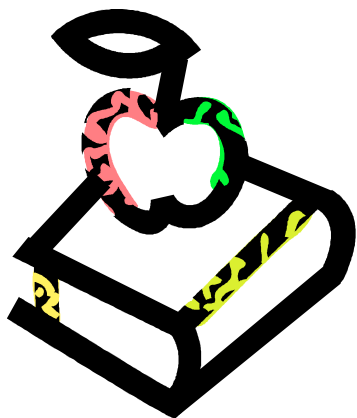
*"I enjoyed memory dump and learned all the parts of a paragraph."*

*"I enjoyed watching the DVD's about learning and taking tests and I learned from them."*

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## Learning How to Learn: After School Program

The Learning How to Learn Program began in 2005. It was felt that many of our Middle School Students would benefit from learning strategies that would help them in school as well as on standardized tests. The program was offered again last year and was a great success.

This is a tuition based program that lasts for nine weeks each session.

Goals of this program include:

- Students will increase their awareness of their academic strengths and weaknesses
- Students will increase their

awareness of strategies that they can use to maximize their learning

- Students will increase their repertoire of test taking strategies
- Students will increase their repertoire of study habits
- Students will practice various types of assessment questions such as true/false, multiple choice, open response
- Students will increase their skills in interpreting test directions
- Time management for test taking, study habits
- Essay writing process

## Message to Learning Skills Students

Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and welcome to our class. Let me tell you what Learning Skills Class is all about.

In this class we focus on what is happening in all of your classes. We will reteach to you concepts covered in class, review what was covered in class, and check on what needs to be done.

We also work on helping you to plan and organize for long term assignments. This is called time management.

In this class you will learn about how you learn best. You will also learn strategies for studying for tests and quizzes, as well as how to prioritize

your time for homework assignments.

We do not do homework in this class. Homework is for home. If you have a problem understanding your homework at night, write a note in your planner and we will do it the next day. Try to write what kind of problem you had. This helps you to understand what you need to work on in the future.

This class is where you will focus on your own learning goals that you write each day.

